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From Wampum to King's Gold

Address by H. S. Seaman, of Clare Bros. Western, Ltd., before the members of the Winnipeg Division, at the Fort Garry Hotel, on Thursday, 22nd March, 1917

Heritage of Britons

It may probably be said that every one of us in this room are British citizens by birth, and most of you within a half century. Every one of you will admit that to grow up within the bounds and amid the privileges of Britons is to lack, at least in some measure, in appreciation of the wide range of benefits and enjoyments to which we have been heirs, without stopping very often to think how much we have to be thankful to our forefathers for.

Perhaps it would be hard to find a more apt illustration than to relate an incident in which Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and Col. Robt. G. Ingersoll were the principals. Beecher dropped into a seat in a railway coach one day beside Ingersoll, and the two were soon discussing the topics of the day. After a time Beecher referred to a large parcel he had with him, and started to unwrap it. It proved to be a beautiful globe map of the world, very accurately and handsomely executed. Ingersoll was all admiration, and presently exclaimed: "Who made it?" "Oh, no one made it; it just happened," was Beecher's reply. Ingersoll was so taken aback that he left the seat and the car. This is about the attitude we sometimes assume towards the benefits, the privileges, the institutions by which we are surrounded. They are here, and as far as we care they may always have been here. We enjoy them for the same reason that those who were before us enjoyed them. But this is not a true analysis of the situation. Many of the privileges, benefits and institutions around us today are the results secured often through great hardships and as the outcome of determined effort and prolonged agitation on the part of those who bequeathed them to us.

Among the most common institutions in our possession today is our means of doing our trading.

Our Medium of Exchange

How did it arrive? Whence did it come?

To appreciate the convenience by which our trading is done today, we shall have to look back upon other days and the methods and means used in former times.

Canada is often spoken of as the newest of the nations; this is partly, but only partly, true. If we are going to define Canada as that guerdon of provinces reaching from coast to coast across this broad continent at its broadest part, then Canada is the newest of nations. In that sense, Canada had no existence fifty years ago today, for we still lack more than three months of reaching our semi-centennial of the Confederation of four great provinces, while it was only on September 1st, 1905, that the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were inaugurated, and only on May 15th, 1912, were the boundaries of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba extended, by which the latter graduated from its aforesaid dimensions, when it was known as the postage stamp province.

In another and a deeper sense, Canada as a united body politic, as contrasted with the many and varied provincialisms of even fifty years ago, is a brand new nation. It has taken two wars of the Empire to fuse the Canada that is from the elements that existed one hundred or even fifty years ago, while at the same time the process was at work in that larger sense by which the Empire is being crystallized as never before.

In all this Canada is the newest of the nations, but there are other methods by which to measure Canada's age.

Cabot's landfall, somewhere at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, June 24th, 1497. The edict of Louis XII. of France, by which the territory in what is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island was given a Governor from Europe, was dated June 15th, 1540. The name of Stadacona was changed to Quebec by Samuel de Champlain on July 3rd, 1608, and Hendric Hudson anchored at the bottom of the bay which will, as long as the world lasts, keep his name on the lips of men, on November 1st, 1610. Landmarks, more enduring than the flag poles erected by the men who were first at such outposts as these, but now in all stages of decay and ruin, mark the sites of the early work of the governor, the missionary, the explorer and the trader of some

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centuries ago at least. In these respects Canada is far from new; while if we stop to compare even the date of Cabot's landing with the age of Greece, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Babylon, then Canada is still young.

But years do not constitute the only gauge by which to measure. You have seen children of eight or ten with faces old enough to give the impression of adult experience. This is the true measure, experience.

In the matter of experience, then, we will endeavor to show that Canada is not only the newest, but also among the oldest of the nations. The way by which the people of Canada have travelled from the earliest days of European occupation until the present, bears all the marks that illustrate the age of countries whose age is calculated in millenniums in place of centuries.

Away down by the sea, the remains of at least two buildings, one the seat of authority, the throne room of the Viceroy of France, the other a munitions warehouse of the same authority, mark the impact of European civilization and occupation, on a territory in which stone had never before been used for the construction of a building. At this same spot, or rather at these same spots, for they are a few miles apart, one of the oldest institutions of aboriginal Americans was incorporated into the new order of things, and adopted by the newcomers in their intercourse with the natives.

Again, most of you read the Credit Men's Journal. In a recent issue of that magazine Champlain's habitation was illustrated. This little community, built upon the silt washed up on the shore of the river at the foot of the Gibraltar of America, answered for the colony planted there by Champlain, for parliament buildings, government house, departmental buildings, agricultural college, cathedral, armory and barracks.

The beginnings of religion, of education, of medicine, of agriculture, of law. The debates or elocutionary contests between civil and military authorities, the records of the deceit and knavery of the Intendants, graft charges, and the means taken to tunnel them, and the efforts in turn of the government in France to explore the tunnels. These are only a few of the things that go to demonstrate that hidden among the musty archives are records that are by no means new. Any of these items would well pay, in real enjoyment, the investigator who will apply the imagination to make these dusty memorials of the past breathe with the red corpuscles of life.

Just as insistent in its demands to be taken into the European customs in vogue in these eastern parts of Canada as were the European manners to be saddled upon the natives, was the age old monetary system of the aborigines. This was a twofold system, exchange by barter and purchase and sale. The means of purchase and sale before the advent of foreign influence was and is still known as

Wampum

These little rings of bone do not look very much like money. No one here would like to accept these in exchange for your labor or commodities that you have for sale. In the old days, however, these little discs were so much a part of the institutions that they had an authorized value, equal to about one cent each, and blue ones of the same dimensions of two cents.

Exchange by barter, the other method of exchange, is more or less familiar to us all: in the lines of modern swapping, as it is commonly called; barter, as it was expressed in the earlier days. Probably we would say, if asked the question, when did the practice of barter begin? that the advent of the European was the commencement of barter; but that is not correct. The barter habit was an old and well established custom when Cartier traded his first jack-knives and beads with the Micmac Indians for furs.

The distribution of the details among many workmen in the making of the modern high explosive shells, will serve to illustrate the degree to which mechanical skill is analyzed and directed in these days, skill as highly developed as for the finest watches, so that we congratulate ourselves as manufacturers, that in this respect we have reached the highest point of excellence. This is without doubt very near the truth. But without investigation, most of us here tonight would make bad guesses as to the proficiency of the aborigines of North America, in many lines of production and manufacture.

Examine these little wampum washers. Fairly uniform, considering they are made by hand, with tools made of stone and without any standard gauge by which to secure uniformity.

Compare these arrow-heads; look carefully at them. How many distinctly different models are represented? Just as they happened to come out of the hands of the maker, you say. Not by any means. The

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models represented here are every one of them specimens of classes into which almost every Indian arrowhead can be divided. Every form, and every feature of every form, shown was so manufactured for some specific purpose.

There has been no atmospheric or other action, such as rust, or by water, to change in the slightest degree, unless in case of actual breaking of any of these specimens. They are exactly as they left the maker's hands, fifty, one hundred, or a thousand years ago. Each one of these items is a simple fact of aboriginal manufacture. Let us set our imagination at work. Kuslokap "The Master," is indeed a master flint arrow-head manufacturer. His works are at Starved Rock, on the Mississippi. His reputation as a reliable producer of accurately and uniformly executed arrow-heads extends the length and breadth of the Valley of the Mississippi. So far, so good; but Kuslokap cannot build a canoe; he cannot even make a basket, or an earthen dish for his dusky spouse to boil the roots for his noonday meal in. Why can he not do these things when he can make arrow-heads so well? He cannot build a canoe because the birch, the cedar, the fir tree does not grow at the bend of the river where is situated his home camp. He cannot make baskets because the willow and the basswood is not a native of his district, and he cannot make a bowl of the clay under his feet, because that kind of clay will not lend itself to the manufacture of bowls, and anyway he has no baskets in which to form the bowl and in which to bake it.

Indian Manufactures

But Kuslokap, the master arrow-head maker, has heard of Naskapi, who lives where the willow abounds, and who has great skill in the production of baskets and the like; and away to the west are a band of Indians, every man and woman of which are noted for their agility in the manufacture of earthen dishes for all purposes, dishes that will stand heat and cold, wet and dry, all the adventures of camp life; and yet again Kuslokap knows also of a tribe away to the north, on the banks of the Kwasind, where grow the fir, the hickory, the tamarac, the birch and the cedar, where the hedgehog abounds. Here Wabasso, renowned builder of canoes, and his tribesmen, each skilled in some one of the details of the gathering, curing and preparing of the raw materials, or in the blending these into canoes for various purposes.

Here Kuslokap may buy for wampum, or if he is short of wampum he may barter to good advantage his drills, knives, scrapers, adzes, hatchets (for Wabasso needs all these in his shipyard) for a canoe, whether he needs a large or small one, whether it be for a compact, heavy or a light and bulky load, whether his design is to attract with the beauty and fleetness of his craft the dusky maiden whose charms have never left his memory since first he saw her; or should he require a bark for a long and weary journey, one which will answer the pressure of the paddle easily, and yet will bear a weighty load; any one of these or all, if he has the barter handy, Kuslokap, the master maker of arrow-heads, can secure from the renowned Wabasso, builder of water craft.

But look again at these arrow-heads. Flint is not the only material of which they are made. Here are arrow-heads of slate, quartzite, obsidian, chert, jasper and ordinary stone; and notice not only arrow-heads of many forms and for many uses, but also drills, hatchets, adzes, scrapers, knives, spears and axes—these again in various materials.

In their intercourse with one another, in times of peace, of course, these all became, together with the wampum, means of exchange and barter.

Wampum was authorized and its value fixed from very early times in the transactions passing between the Europeans, French, Spanish, Portuguese or English and the natives. In the course of time, however, it was found not to work out, as the natives seldom if ever wanted wampum. They had their eye on the powder or salt, the calico or the blanket, the gun or the rum, in exchange for whatever they had to offer, and thus the wampum would become a drug on the market and of little or no use to the trader, in whose hands it was most apt to accumulate. In the year 1670 the authorities in French Canada therefore formally denominatized wampum.

In centres like Annapolis, Quebec, Michilimackinac, Cataragui, the need of small change (for which the wampum had served admirably, having had a fixed value of about one cent for the white and two cents for blue) soon after the banishment of wampum made itself felt, and as time went on became a matter of no small inconvenience to all concerned. But necessity knows no law, and the situation became such, owing to the fact that the home authorities, who had put the ban upon wampum, had not made any provision for something to take its place, that the Intendant at Quebec,

Jacques de Meulles, hit upon a scheme that was used with more or less satisfaction for well on towards a century. For fifteen years, excepting the occasional when the home government were forced, for fear of the consequences, to forward the money for the payment of the administrative expenses, salaries of the officers of the colony, wages of the militia, etc., these were the only times when money was available for use among the colonists, when it almost automatically gravitated into the hands of the traders, who in turn would have to send it back to France in order to pay their bills for goods already received, and to secure additional supplies in increased quantities to meet the growing needs of their constituencies.

Card Money

On September 24th, 1685, the treasurer of the colony at Quebec notified the home government of the expedient he had worked out for use of the community. In justification of the proceeding, he narrates a tale as harrowing as any credit man here ever had poured into his ears by a debtor in an effort to secure an extension of time or further line of credit accommodation. For eight months, this letter goes on to state, from January to August, the King's treasurer had from his own private chest paid the tradespeople for the supplies of the vice-regal household, the wages of the soldiers, the workmen and work women whom it was absolutely essential to employ that the King's business should be conducted in an efficient and a fitting manner. But the money chests of even King's provincial treasurers have their limits, and that of Intendant Jacques de Meulles was no exception to the rule. When he had successfully passed the eighth monthly rounds of demans, he had reached the end of his personal resources, and had simply been forced to act upon the plan which he had been resourceful enough to evolve. Looking about him, he had discovered playing cards in abundance, apparently, and by cutting these in halves and quarters, the number of them will be multiplied accordingly, and in addition specific significance would be secured. Imagining this man, this genius, within the recesses of his own fertile brain, patting himself on the back and crying exultantly, Eureka! Eureka!

Why not make, as officials of larger domains make, a colonial issue of money, not silver or gold but card money, imprint the seal of the realm, and lo! real money; then issue a manifesto to the common herd,

and order them to recognize it with just the same confidence that they do the silver and gold of France. This is exactly what happened, and the ingenious finance minister apparently neither won the approval nor reaped the wrath of the King or his government.

A quarter of a playing card, with the impression of the seal of the treasurer in wax, the value fifteen sols, and the autograph of the Intendant, became legal currency for that amount; half a card became twenty sols, and a whole card four francs, or about equal to fifteen, twenty and eighty cents of our money. These values were adopted, as it permitted the treasurer to pay the soldier his wages in exact change.

The seal of authority used by this Intendant was in the form of a crowned circle, within which were enclosed three fleur-de-lis.

We have had some experience in the past few years, watching the effect upon the money market of the floating of loans, village and municipal loans, loans civic and politic, loans of the Dominion and of the mother country. How did the people of old Canada receive the proposal to establish a local currency? Just as a loyal people should, exactly, with open arms; just as some of the energetic and far-seeing people of that part of Canada that lies towards the setting sun from old Canada have in these latter days—almost falling over each other in the effort to secure some of the good stuff before the supply was exhausted; for instance, sunset subdivisions adjacent to embryonic cities of the plain and El Dorados of the mountains; rock corner lots in Prince Rupert, that would have been a great spot for Kuslokap to import his flint from, had he known of it.

But even good quality of card stock, as the stationery dealer would tell us, will, because of constant handling and carrying, become cracked and smudgy. When this took place provision had to be made for its redemption. So de Muelles would have his clerks prepare new card money to take the place of the old, and also new card money to pay the new debts of the administration, until the people began to realize that even with the coat-of-arms of the Crown, and the various signatures of the authorities attached, these bits of pasteboard were fast assuming their true value as bits of pasteboard only.

The despair of the Intendant had only been pushed back a few years. Now again he must take up his appeal to the King with greater emphasis, or the people will

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be in distress, while the traders will be bankrupt and the administration will be in very bad repute.

When the Intendant became desperate, then the King and his government would come to the rescue by paying up all the debts, and the colony would secure thereby, as it were, a new lease of life. The King would also confirm the outstanding card money to date, and this would help for some time into the future, when the old conditions would again begin to show themselves and the colony would be in as critical a state as ever; thus would the cycle of fortune and misfortune follow one another in due order.

The illustrations submitted give a fair idea of the variety, range and continuance of the practice of issuing card money, and the ultimate solidity with which it became embedded among the customs and institutions. A few lines will serve to state the facts which have become recorded in connection with this interesting phase of the evolution of the monetary enactments and the means adopted to provide currency with which to carry on the business of a growing colony.

There does not appear to be on record any confirmation by the King's government of that first issue by the colonial treasurer in 1685, nor can there be found any better authority than his own for his successor in office for an issue made after proclamation on November 19th, 1690; nor is there available any statement of the values nor quantities of this issue.

The loss in 1690 of a vessel with a cargo of flour and pork to the traders and habitants, in payment of which card money had been issued by the Governor, in the belief that when the vessel reached the French seaport the King would order payment, and thus some real money would arrive in the colony, this lost vessel created a new condition. It does not appear that the Governor of the colony recognized the entire loss of this cargo, and the circulation of the value in card money, for which, of course, now no value existed, as any reason why a new issue, for a new cargo, should not be made in 1691. The shipment of 1691 unfortunately met the same fate as that of 1690, and it went to the bottom of the boisterous Atlantic. Again in 1692 another cargo was paid for with a new issue of card money, and it, strange to say, was lost at sea. Better fortune apparently met further shipments, or else the game had been so badly overworked that the people refused to accept, even on the authority of

the Viceroy, card money for which all trace of representative value had disappeared. The Governor had reached the limit of his credit, just as it happens that once in a while a would-be merchant finds that he had failed to establish himself sufficiently in the good graces of the credit man.

Other issues were made under what we might term orders-in-council by the local authorities under dates of October 20th, 1699, and October 23rd, 1708. There is some evidence for the increase in the value of the card money by this time, however, for the Marquis de Vaudreuil, the Governor-General (not the one who surrendered Montreal to General Amherst, be it said) reports a new issue on October 1st, 1711, in which appear record of 3,000 cards of 50 livres each, and 3,000 of 100 livres each, or about \$40.00 and \$80.00 of our money. Issue of card money also took place in 1702 and in 1714.

Then the authorities at home took up the matter, and proposed to substitute metal money, mostly silver, for the use of the colony, and forthwith abolished the card money in 1717, substituting coins bearing the King's head. These, however, did not prove to be popular, the agitation being so emphatic that within a year, on March 2nd, 1718, the prohibition of card money was reversed.

Card money was authorized by royal edict dated March 2nd, 1729, the number of pieces and values of which made a total equal to \$320,000.00 of our money, in amounts of \$11.20, \$5.60, \$2.80, \$1.40, \$1.00 and 30c and 15c respectively. The cards of the first four values were to bear the imprint of the arms of His Most Christian Majesty, and to be signed by the Governor, the Lieutenant-General and the Intendant, while the three lowest values were to be signed only by the Controller of Marine at Quebec. Royal edicts followed this one rapidly. The combined values of this of 1729, together with those of 1733, 1734, 1738, 1742 and 1749, reached the grand total value of about \$800,000.00 of our money.

On October 15th, 1759, five weeks after the fall of Quebec, the French Government repudiated the whole of its liability for the card money in circulation. This, of course, would throw the whole colony upon its own resources, and that in face of the fact that they had also fallen into the hands of alien conquerors.

However, on June 29th, 1764, after the cession of the colony to Britain, the Council-of-State decided by decree to liquidate all

card money that was then outstanding, thus bringing to a close an institution which had served the people of its North American colony almost eighty years.

During this same period silver French coins began with a decree of Louis XIV., dated February 19th, 1670, for a silver coin of about 30 cents of our money, but now valued, from a numismatic point of view, at about \$200.00.

November 18th, 1672, was the date of an order for a coin of about 15 cents, which is now worth about \$25.00 if in good condition.

A copper coin authorized by order-in-council of March 9th, 1717, issued at a value under 2 cents of our money, if in good condition would now bring \$200.00 at auction.

A decree of 30th January, 1744, provided for two bronze coins, one of 4 cents value, the other of 2 cents; the former is now worth about \$5.00, while the latter would bring \$100.00.

Change of Flag

On July 26th, 1758, at Louisburg; on September 13th, 1759, at Quebec; on July 24th at Niagara, and on September 8th, 1760, at Montreal—

"The last day came, and Bois le Grand
Beheld with misty eyes
The flag of France run down the staff
And that of England rise."

With the change of sovereign and flag, it was inevitable that a change in coinage would also follow. We have already pointed out what happened to the card money of the French regime. The silver and gold coinage, however, was on a better basis as an international means of exchange, and did not cause the hardship to those who held it that the card money did during the first few years of British occupation.

The habitant, by necessity a frugal folk, in consequence of the conditions existing in Canada up to and since the conquest, had long known the difference in the purchasing value of card money and that of silver and gold, but hundreds of thousands of francs of card money were in circulation, while silver and gold was very carefully kept out of sight. By this time, also, Portuguese and Spanish money had drifted in through dealings with the British American colonies, and these coins had a somewhat better standing than card money, but owing to their distance from country of issue, the state of wear of the coins and fluctuations

in the success or failure of the arms of these countries, the value of a given coin was problematical, to say the least.

Repudiation Reversed

The decision by the Council-in-State in France to redeem the card money in circulation was indeed a blessing to the habitant, and was the means of a great deal of what was looked upon for some years as almost to continue to hold it; this redemption enabled the useless holders in many cases to turn the silver and gold received for it into savings and hide it away. The broken teapot or the old stocking became the bank of the habitant, and if all accounts are true, continued for long years to exercise that function. By the time the card money was all redeemed it was estimated that there was in Canada (that is, the Province of Quebec as it is today, with a scattered population in parts of Ontario) at least a million pounds sterling hidden away in the First National Banks of the Habitant—that is, the old stockings and teapots—say, by the years 1766-1770.

Among the first Acts proclaimed by the new Legislature of Lower Canada in 1792 was one reviving the legality of wampum, aiming at the relief in part of the need of small change.

The mixed gold and silver coins of other than French and British mints continued to give trouble in arriving at anything like a fair valuation. In 1795 an Imperial regulation fixing the value upon a standard based upon the average intrinsic worth of the gold and silver coins of Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal and the United States, and this brought a measure of relief from uncertainty in the matter.

There was another need, which at times came in a great deal of agitation for a solution—the matter of copper coins. Many and various were the attempts to relieve the constant cry for coins of low values. The tokens, as they are called, issued by firms and individuals, partly for the relief of a need, and partly for the net profit, would make an interesting collection. Some of these were purely of a business nature, representing a loaf of bread, the tax for crossing a bridge, the card of membership in a club, a glass of St. Leon Water, and in later years a railroad ticket, and many firms simply used them as an advertisement and accepted them in part payment of purchases at their stores.

Earliest British Coins

At least two coins were issued from a patriotic point of view. These were in commemoration of the battle of Queenston Heights, and represented Sir Isaac Brock as the hero of Upper Canada. These appeared in 1815 and 1816, and were of halfpenny value.

Also in 1815 a penny coin produced by Sir Isaac Coffin, on the occasion of his visit to the Magdalen Islands, royal grant of which he had received from the Crown some years before. His intention was to supply the colony with these, and a halfpenny coin as well, but the latter was never produced. This coin is shown.

The demand for a standard coin of fixed value was never fully met, however, until 1837, when the Bank of Montreal, Banque du Peuple, the City Bank and the Quebec Bank all united in producing halfpenny and penny coins from dies exactly alike in every respect, except for a very minute change in the name on the ribbon under the garter on the reverse of each coin. The full set are on the table. They were known as habitants because of the habitants upon them.

The Bank of Montreal, our oldest banking institution, issued, in the years 1838 and 1839, half and one penny coins having a side view of their building upon them. These are known to collectors as "side views," and are very rare.

On February 10th, 1841, Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec) were by the Canada Act united into one province, and the Bank of Montreal became the Government Bankers, Montreal having been chosen as the seat of government. This bank issued a new half penny and penny coin, in each of the years 1842, 1844 and 1845. These are represented on the table by three uncirculated specimens. There is only one copy known to be in existence of the issue of 1845. It, of course, is not here.

The Bank of Upper Canada issued halfpenny and penny coins in the years 1850, 1852, 1854, 1857. You can see these complete with two pairs in die varieties.

Provincial Copper Coins

In 1823 the Province of Nova Scotia issued a halfpenny coin, followed by halfpenny and penny in 1824, 1832, 1840, 1843 and 1856; in 1861 half cent and one cent; 1862, one cent; 1864, half cent and one cent.

New Brunswick issued, on the authority of the provincial government, in 1843, halfpenny and penny coins, and again in 1854, but apparently without the sanction of the

Imperial government. There does not appear to have been any trouble occasioned, but the coins have always been looked upon as only semi-official. In 1861 also were issued one cent coins by authority, and half cent by mistake; 5 cent, 10 cent and 20 cent silver coins were also issued by New Brunswick in the years 1862 and 1864.

Prince Edward Island, as you know, did not come into Confederation until July 1st, 1873. This accounts for the provincial government having issued over two million one cent copper coins in 1871. This is the only coin ever issued by the Island Province with the sanction of the Imperial government.

As westerners you will be interested to know that not only did the Hudson's Bay Company issue their own peculiar coins in the year 1857. These had a relative value of one-eighth, one-quarter, one-half and one beaver skin, the beaver skin, we are informed, always being the standard of value between the Company and the Indians at the outlying trading post, as our gold standard is 16 to 1.

Before this, however, and, of course, before the amalgamation of the two companies, the North-West Fur Company issued a token to represent a beaver skin also, in 1820.

Halifax currency, of which probably not many here have ever heard before, was the value placed on certain money standards in 1772, from that date until 1858, in all the British North American provinces. Halifax currency was calculated on a basis of 12 pence equals 1 shilling, 5 shillings equals \$1.00, and \$4.00 or 20 shillings equals one pound, the dollar being the Spanish dollar, containing 385 grains fine silver.

In 1862 British Columbia established a mint and issued a few \$10.00 and \$20.00 gold pieces before it became known that such procedure was illegal until authority by a royal order-in-council was secured. These pieces are now valued up to \$500.00 each, notwithstanding the fact that they never had any authorized standing as money.

In 1858 the Province of Canada, that is, the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, issued 1,000,000 one cent, 1,500,000 five cent, 1,250,000 ten cent and 750,000 twenty cent, the first in copper and the other three in silver, of course. In 1859 an issue of 9,000,000 one cent coppers was made.

Confederation took place July 1st, 1867, but it was nearly three years before any issue of coins was made by the Dominion

government. In 1870 an issue of 450,000 fifty cent, 900,000 twenty-five cent, 1,700,000 ten cent and 2,600,000 five cent silver was made, and about half as many in 1871, and every year except 1873 some coins have been issued. No one cent coins were issued by the Dominion government until 1876; the ten million issued by Canada in 1858 and 1859 apparently sufficed for the needs of the four provinces until that time.

On 14th April, 1871, an Act passed by the Dominion government repealed all Acts of the four provinces which were not in harmony with this new bill, and established decimal currency as the standard money value in Canada. The bill also provided for the minting, in British mints only, the coinage of Canada. This has always been adhered to.

Every coin, as is entirely fitting, issued by Canada in 1858 and 1859, and by the Dominion of Canada from 1870 to 1901, as a loyal and true Dominion beyond the sea, bears the image of Queen Victoria the Good; those issued from 1902 to 1910 that of Edward the Peacemaker. From 1911 until 1916 the bust of His Gracious Majesty King George V. is impressed upon every coin issued by our government.

Canadian Mint

In 1901 a bill passed by the Imperial government provided for the establishment of a branch of the royal mint in Canada, and on January 2nd, 1908, at Ottawa, Their Excellencies Earl and Lady Grey, the latter turned the button which started the machinery, while the Governor-General wielded the lever which coined the first Canadian minted coin, a 50 cent silver piece. Since that time 28,760,000 copper coins, \$6,362,000 in silver and \$4,868,420 in Canadian gold coins. The latter, as far as I have been able to learn, have only been issued since the ascension of our present King to the throne of the Empire.

It is worth while to remark that the Canadian branch of the royal mint has demonstrated Canadian loyalty in a new way by minting nearly 400,000 British sovereigns, and thus providing British gold for shipment to New York, to the credit of the mother country, the actual gold never having crossed the ocean.

This, in both senses of the word, establishes the completion of the journey, not only in its relation to the currency of Canada, but that of Great Britain itself,

"From Wampum to King's Gold."

